

Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/17/2018 3:49:42 PM
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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

Shutdown Week?

Posted Dec. 17, 2018, 7:41 AM

By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

The burning Beltway question this week: Will parts of the government shut down right before Christmas?

Lawmakers face an end-of-the day deadline Dec. 21. President Trump's demand for \$5 billion for a border wall remains the sticking point for a deal to pass the remaining spending bills that pay for about 25 percent of federal operations—including the Interior Department and EPA.

Interior's Bureau of Land Management, in a March shutdown plan, says about 6,930 of its 9,260 employees would be furloughed if a shutdown happens.

The EPA, in its plan updated in September, says many employees would be able to keep working, either because of a carryover of unexpired spending or because they get paid from someplace other than annual appropriations.

EPA's Childhood Lead Exposure Strategy Coming Dec. 19

By Amena H. Saiyid

Posted Dec. 14, 2018, 1:16 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to release a long-awaited, multi-agency plan to reduce childhood exposure to lead on Dec. 19, an agency spokeswoman confirmed.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Pioneering environment writer wants an apology

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter Published: Friday, December 14, 2018



New York Times reporter Philip Shabecoff pictured at Mile Zero of the Transalaska Pipeline in the late 1980s. Philip Shabecoff

Philip Shabecoff, a longtime environment reporter, has covered Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton and every president in between.

Now, at age 84, he'd like to return to the news business to cover President Trump.

E&E SERIES



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"I wish I were back in the White House again," he said in a recent interview. "I covered the White House during the Watergate end game, so I feel like I helped get rid of Nixon. I'd like to help get rid of Trump, who is far, far worse than Nixon."

Shabecoff, who's now retired and living outside of Boston, was *The New York Times'* environment reporter until 1991, when he left the paper under pressure and went on to found *Greenwire*, which is now one of E&E News' publications. He sold the outlet several years after its launch.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/12/14/stories/1060109689>

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

South Korea may extend electrical and electronic products regulation

Includes additional product types and phthalate restrictions

13 December 2018 / Electrical & electronics, Metals, Phthalates, Product testing, South Korea



South Korea's Ministry of Environment has proposed extending the regulation of electrical and electronic products for hazardous substances. The changes would:

- increase the number of product types covered from 26 to 49;

- increase the substances tested for from five to nine by adding four phthalates; and
- modify penalties for non-compliance.

The proposed amendment sets enforcement of additional phthalate restrictions from 22 July 2019, and expansion of coverage for additional products from 1 January 2020.

Enactment would be done through amending the presidential decree of the Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Vehicles.

The additional 23 products types include:

- dehumidifiers;
- toasters;
- electric kettles;
- electric water heaters;
- hair dryers; and
- video game machines.

The new substances including in the proposed change are the phthalates:

- di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP);
- benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP);
- dibutyl phthalate (DBP); and
- disobutyl phthalate (DIBP).

The amendment would also change the penalty system used. It would:

- add staged penalty amounts based on the number of prior violations; and
- halve penalty fines for voluntary disclosure of first violation.

The fine levels include 20m Korean Won (US\$17,780) for the first violation; 25m (US\$22,220) for the second and 30m (US\$26,670) for the third. Previously all fines were set at 30m Won.

According to the ministry the changes reflect industry opinion and the EU RoHS2 regulations (Directive 2015/862/EU).



Sunny Lee

Asia editor

Related Articles

- [Act on the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles \(2018 revision\)](#)

Further Information:

- [MOE announcement \(in Korean\)](#)

EPA consults on TSCA science committee nominees

14 December 2018 / TSCA, United States

The US EPA is accepting comments on a slate of candidates for participation and possible membership on the TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC).

Fifty nominees came in response to a [public call](#) for scientific experts. Candidates for the committee – which provides independent advice on science and technical issues to assist the agency in its implementation of the Lautenberg Act – include representatives from academia, industry, consultants, state and federal agencies and NGOs.

All nominees are being considered for serving in an *ad hoc* capacity for reviewing risk evaluations under TSCA, and potentially to "fulfil short term needs when a vacancy occurs on the chartered Committee".

Comments will be accepted until 14 January.

Related Articles

- [US EPA calls for TSCA science board nominations](#)

Further Information:

- [Federal Register notice](#)
- [Nominees and bios](#)
- [TSCA peer review site](#)

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